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TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS AND RADIO NEWS BRIEFING, TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 27, 1962, 12:10 p.m.

MR. WHITE: Gentlemen, at 3 o'clock tomorrow afternoon in the old auditorium there will be a showing of a program entitled "An Hour With the Secretary of State".

Transcript will be available at that time. It is for showing on CBS, 7:30 on Wednesday night. *(Correspondents were later informed that the showing would be in the NEA Auditorium on 11:30 PM)*

Q At 7:30, Wednesday night?

MR. WHITE: That's right.

Q Tomorrow, Line?

MR. WHITE: That's right.

You have been passed copies of Mr. Manning's memorandum ^{on} and procedures relating to contacts with news media representatives. Perhaps if you have any questions I'll turn the mike over to Bob at this point.

Q Well, first, I have just a technical point I would like to establish, how we handle this. Is this a statement by you?

MR. MANNING: Well, what--

Q I notice it's a memorandum.

MR. MANNING: What it is, this is what you might call a massive leak.

[Laughter]

This is a memorandum that I'm circulating today to all the Assistant Secretaries and several other principal officers and, in view of the fact that it deals with this very public problem, I have just taken the liberty of making a copy of the memo available to you. I think it pretty much speaks for itself, particularly if you take it in the context of the comments that Linc made on the subject on November 2nd, after the original oral discussion I had in the Secretary's staff meeting on this question.

I don't think there is really anything to add to it. I would point out that, since there has been discussion previously about matters of principle, that there is an important matter of principle cited here on page 2, and other than that I don't think there has been anything in this dialogue that we haven't covered either with you here or in individual discussions of it in the past. But if there are any questions, I'd be glad to take them.

Q You are removing the--I mean the procedure is being abolished, I take it?

MR. MANNING: No, the procedure is being suspended.

Q Suspended?

MR. MANNING: Uh-huh.

Q Because it has been misrepresented, as you say, by the press, or because--

MR. MANNING: No, no, I wouldn't say that. I am concerned about the sort of, some of what I think has been a misimpression about its extent. That is why I have gone to some detail to reiterate what its extent was and is now. But, as the last part points out, it has usefully served the points I discussed in the memo and discussed previously when this whole subject first came up. I think that for now we can suspend it. But if it becomes necessary to reinstitute it, why, we will feel free and able to do so.

Q You will reinstate it; if Cuba gets hot again you will put it back in force?

MR. MANNING: It may turn out that there will be a period several months hence in which I am simply curious again about, quite separate from anything else that is going on in the international scene, as to whether the dialogue that I talked about, that Linc talked about in some length, which I think makes some very important and profitable points about the responsibility of public officials dealing with policy talking with the press. This is one means of assuring that the pattern is working out effectively.

Q Well, Bob, conceding your principle on page 2, which I think is very well taken, you are satisfied, are you, that this has no inhibiting effect?

MR. MANNING: I am satisfied that it has had none, and that it won't have. And I haven't received any evidence. I have canvassed this very sharply, both inside and with many reporters, and I have no evidence that it has caused any inhibition.

Q Our only problem is we feel like, I feel like many Frenchmen feel about de Gaulle, we ^{trust} ~~pressed~~ you on this, we don't know whether you will be here forever.
[Laughter]

MR. MANNING: Well, there is a good point, Stu. But I have gotten several nights sleep, and I am going to be here for a while.

MR. WHITE: Other company--present company accepted, I take it.
[Laughter]

Q Bob, I understood the President to say in his news conference he was going to discuss this with you or the Secretary of State.

MR. MANNING: We have discussed this, yes. I have discussed it more at length with the Secretary, obviously, than with the President.

Q Can you say what you learned from the reports that you have got?

MR. MANNING: Well, what I have done, more than learn I have sort of documented what in eight months has

become obvious. I have gotten a fairly good notion that there is a pretty free and helpful dialogue going on and some notion of where perhaps there are some gaps.

Q Bob, the thing that has puzzled me is wouldn't it be just as effective to read the newspapers?

MR. MANNING: To read the newspapers?

Q To find out what people are saying to the reporters. We print practically everything.

MR. MANNING: In other words, I should find out what's going on in my own shop by just reading the newspapers?

Q Well, since their reporting to you won't stop it from being printed, what's the advantage of having them report to you what they say, rather than just waiting to read it in the papers?

MR. MANNING: There are many things going on involving many other branches of government and many other governments. It's always interesting to know that a point of view being attributed to the Department of State has in fact come from the Department of State--which doesn't necessarily happen. Many of you cover foreign policy through other channels as well.

No, I can't--I mean any more than, say, a Senator would agree that all of his assistants are completely free

to go out and talk as they want about what his policy is and everything else without any consultation with him. I don't quite see why the Secretary and I, as his agent in this, don't have both the right and the need to know how this is working, whether it's working effectively, and what can be done to improve it.

Q Are you taking steps, as a result of the information you get, to correct any situations where you think the officials may have been reluctant?

MR. MANNING: Well, it has certainly been, I'd say, my principal purpose in getting the information, so the answer is yes. As to what steps and where, and so on, I don't have any magnificent, grand plans. But there are things to be learned from this, and I think useful.

Well, if there are any later questions, I will be around in the next day or so. Thank you.

Q Thank you, Bob.

MR. WHITE: Thank you, Bob.

[At 12:15 p.m. Mr. Manning left the briefing room.]

MR. WHITE: Gentlemen, that is all I have. As far as I know, there are no releases in the works. And I have nothing else of a voluntary nature here.

Q Linc, have you anything to say about Mr. Mikoyan's visit to New York?

Q Linc, do you have any comment on Ydigoras' statement that if Castro doesn't quit getting in trouble down there he is going to establish a government in exile?

MR. WHITE: No, I have no comment on that.

Q Linc, do you have any comment on a report that the International Atomic Energy Agency is being considered as a means of establishing a verification system in the Caribbean area?

MR. WHITE: No. I think what is happening here is that the AEC is working out arrangements, both with EURATOM and with the--what is it?

Q The IAEA.

MR. WHITE: The IAEA, yes. I have a little telegram on that which I thought I had brought out. Unhappily, I didn't. If you are interested enough, I will go get it. Otherwise I will talk to any of you after about it.

Q Well, what arrangements, to do what?

MR. WHITE: Well, that is it. I failed to bring the telegram with me and I just glanced at it before I came out here. Perhaps it would be better--could somebody run that down for me? It's right on my desk, it's a telegram.

Q Any new explosions in India?

MR. WHITE: No. I don't quite get the drift of

for the Italian company's power reactor now under, it says, contraction, I suppose it means construction, on the G-a-r-i-g-l-i-a-n-o River 60 kilometers from Naples. The contract makes provision, among other things, for a system of deferred payments over a ten-year period for the operating inventory of the reactor.

The second contract covers the return to the AEC and the credit for unconsumed U-235 contained in US-supplied fuel--

Q Thank you, Mr. White.

MR. WHITE: --eradiated in the center reactor and for the purchase by the AEC of up to 600 kilograms of plutonium produced during the ten-year period.

And then it goes on for four other paragraphs.

[Laughter]

Q Is it safe to assume that this has nothing to do with inspection in the Caribbean, which I think was the intent of the question?

MR. WHITE: This has absolutely nothing to do with inspection in the Caribbean.

Q Mr. White, there was a report, in the Telegraph, in Britain saying that the United States would pull out the missiles that are in Turkey by 1963, as a corresponding gesture for the withdrawal of---

MR. WHITE: I think the question of Turkey in relation to Cuba has been fully, adequately expressed here, and I have nothing to add to it.

Q Thank you, Mr. White.

MR. WHITE: In other words, there is no relationship in any way, shape or form.

Q Yeah, but this story, Linc, didn't say there was any relationship. I think this story that was in the Telegraph said that the US had made a decision long before Cuba to pull them out because they were obsolete or obsolescent. I was wondering if you had anything to say?

MR. WHITE: I have no information to that effect whatsoever.

Q Thank you, Mr. White.

MR. WHITE: You are very welcome. sirs.

[Whereupon, at 12:28 p.m. the briefing was closed.]